The Toucan

Toucans are clumsy-looking birds, ranging in size from 36 cm. (14 ins.) long, to 63 cm. (25 ins.) long in the largest species, the Toco Toucan. The most noticeable thing about them is their brightly-coloured, over-sized beak, which is sometimes as long as their body and four times as large as their head. Marc Meyers, a materials scientist and professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering, grew up in the forests of Brazil 40 years ago, and was fascinated by the structure of toucans’ beaks, which he sometimes found puzzling. Meyers describes it as a “high-energy impact-absorption system” that car makers hope to copy to make panels that will provide better protection for motorists involved in car crashes.

A faith worth having; a life worth living!

Evolutionists claim (without proof) that we are closely related to apes. But there is no evidence that apes (or any other animals) have any spiritual awareness. They don’t pray or worship. Yet humans are religious by nature, whether they worship many gods or goddesses, man-made idols, or one God. If there is no God, we are just accidents of evolution, and life becomes pointless. Deep within us there seems to be a hunger for something outside ourselves, and beyond the physical realm. This is why efforts to destroy religion always fail. Of course, people can always find excuses to explain religion away if they wish. Blaise Pascal wrote, “In faith there is enough light for those who want to believe and enough shadow for those who don’t.” The Bible says: “Without faith it exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”

Atheists often claim that they can live upright, moral lives without religion, which, of course, is true. But how do they decide right from wrong without some higher authority or reference point? Ultimately, it means making up our own rules — and changing them if we wish, which leads to moral anarchy. Of course, many terrible things have been done in the name of religion. Jesus Christ faced His greatest opposition from the religious leaders of His time, and it was they who eventually had Him crucified. But through His death and resurrection Jesus offers us a true relationship with God. A faith that is not based on keeping rules or placing a lifeless deity, but based on love for a God who created us in His image, and who loved us first. That’s a faith worth having and a life worth living!

Why are humans religious?

Human beings, unlike any other living creature, are incurably religious. Wherever people live, whether in modern cities or remote jungle villages, you will find some kind of belief in the supernatural.

Archaeologists tell us that wherever evidence of human civilisation is found, religion was part of it. Some religion involves the worship idols or images (right), some the spirits of dead ancestors, others an invisible deity. Atheists and secular scientists, who deny the existence of a supernatural realm, struggle to find an explanation for the origin of religion. Some say it is just a left-over from primitive magic and superstition, and are puzzled by the fact that religious belief not only persists in the 21st century, but is actually growing throughout the world.

We believe there is a better explanation: that humans were created by God to have a relationship with Him, and that, as famous scientist Blaise Pascal said (left), there is a “God-shaped vacuum” in our hearts. This makes sense of the fact that most people yearn for something beyond themselves and their physical, earthly existence.
Children are “born believers”!

Scientific studies have shown that children believe in God naturally, and don’t have to be taught to be religious. Dr Justin Barrett, a senior researcher at the University of Oxford’s Centre for Anthropology and Mind, said that children are “born believers” in God and do not simply acquire religious beliefs through indoctrination. 1 Dr Barrett said there is evidence that even by the age of four, children understand that although some objects are made by humans, the natural world is different. He added that this means children are more likely to believe in creationism than evolution, despite what they may be told by parents or teachers. “Children’s normally and naturally developing minds make them prone to believe in divine creation and intelligent design. In contrast, evolution is unnatural for human minds; relatively difficult to believe.” 2 This evidence is a real problem for atheists like Professor Richard Dawkins, who claims that parents reject religion from their children, and that belief in Santa Claus, they will outgrow it. The analogy is flawed. Former atheist Professor Alister McGrath asked, “How many people do you know who started to believe in Santa Claus in adulthood?” (1987). New scientists claim that children have an innate belief in god, however, what does that leave the indoctrination hypothesis?3


Former atheist now believes in God and creation

“My parents brought me up to be an atheist and they failed miserably!” That’s the testimony of Dr A. J. Mority White, (right) who holds a B.Sc (Hons) and Ph.D in chemistry. As would be expected, so an atheist he believed in evolution, and when he became a Christian in 1964, he assumed that evolution was God’s method. However, Mority is now one of the UK’s leading speakers on the creation-evolution controversy, and has authored several books on the subject. How did this happen? His scientific studies convinced him that evolution was scientifically flawed. He says, “I became a creationist by reading evolution textbooks!” Mority’s experience certainly disproves the theory that people only believe in God because they were brought up to do so.

1. Science Daily 10th February 2010

Confusion over dinosaurs’ origins

Ever since Darwin’s time, evolutionists have claimed that birds evolved from dinosaurs being the most likely candidate. There have always been serious problems with this idea, including the problem of solving scale, feathers, and the fact that birds came by their unique respiratory system, and how ground-based creatures began to fly. Recently, some have even suggested an alternative theory: dinosaurs evolved from birds! This theory is based on a study of a fossil of a bird called microraptor (left) discovered in 2003, which had feathers on its hind limbs. Scientists made three-dimensional models to study how it might have flown, and concluded that it must have been a “glider” that came down from the trees! Zoology professor John Ruben said: “We’re finally breaking out of the conventional wisdom of the last 20 years, which insisted that birds evolved from dinosaurs and that the debate is all over and done with. This issue isn’t resolved at all. There are just too many inconsistencies with the idea that birds had dinosaur ancestors, and this newest study adds to that.”

This latest theory presents evolutionists with a new problem: if dinosaurs evolved from birds, then what did the birds evolve from? Will they consider the possiblity that neither dinosaurs nor birds evolved from anything, but were created by God?

1. www.crt.org.uk

At The Pantheon in Athens, built in 438 BC for the worship of the Greek goddess Athena

The Lion Handbook of the Bible, 2.

In God and creation

There are lots of different beliefs about life after death. Some people believe in reincarnation — the idea that we are reborn in another form, either as another person or even an animal, or plant. There are lots of strong arguments against this idea, one of which is that if everyone had a past life, the world population would not keep on growing! Christians believe that the strongest evidence that death is not the end is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Sceptics object that it’s impossible to prove the resurrection scientifically. However, it’s not a matter of science, but of history, to be judged like all historical events — on the evidence of witnesses. In this case, all the witnesses speak with one voice: three days after Jesus had been crucified and certified dead, His tomb was found to be empty, and He was seen alive by numerous eyewitnesses, some of whom even claimed to have had a meal with Him. Writing less than 30 years after the event, Paul of Tarsus reported that he knew of more than 500 people who had met the risen Christ at the same time, and most of them were still living. (1 Corinthians 15: 6).

Surely the people who were there are more qualified to say what happened than any sceptics who are 2,000 years removed from the event! Sceptics object that it’s impossible to prove the resurrection scientifically. However, it’s not a matter of science, but of history, to be judged like all historical events — on the evidence of witnesses. In this case, all the witnesses speak with one voice: three days after Jesus had been crucified and certified dead, His tomb was found to be empty, and He was seen alive by numerous eyewitnesses, some of whom even claimed to have had a meal with Him. Writing less than 30 years after the event, Paul of Tarsus reported that he knew of more than 500 people who had met the risen Christ at the same time, and most of them were still living. (1 Corinthians 15: 6).

Surely the people who were there are more qualified to say what happened than any sceptics who are 2,000 years removed from the event! Christians believe that the strongest evidence that death is not the end is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Sceptics object that it’s impossible to prove the resurrection scientifically. However, it’s not a matter of science, but of history, to be judged like all historical events — on the evidence of witnesses. In this case, all the witnesses speak with one voice: three days after Jesus had been crucified and certified dead, His tomb was found to be empty, and He was seen alive by numerous eyewitnesses, some of whom even claimed to have had a meal with Him. Writing less than 30 years after the event, Paul of Tarsus reported that he knew of more than 500 people who had met the risen Christ at the same time, and most of them were still living. (1 Corinthians 15: 6).

Surely the people who were there are more qualified to say what happened than any sceptics who are 2,000 years removed from the event! Christians believe that the strongest evidence that death is not the end is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Sceptics object that it’s impossible to prove the resurrection scientifically. However, it’s not a matter of science, but of history, to be judged like all historical events — on the evidence of witnesses. In this case, all the witnesses speak with one voice: three days after Jesus had been crucified and certified dead, His tomb was found to be empty, and He was seen alive by numerous eyewitnesses, some of whom even claimed to have had a meal with Him. Writing less than 30 years after the event, Paul of Tarsus reported that he knew of more than 500 people who had met the risen Christ at the same time, and most of them were still living. (1 Corinthians 15: 6).

Surely the people who were there are more qualified to say what happened than any sceptics who are 2,000 years removed from the event! Christians believe that the strongest evidence that death is not the end is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Sceptics object that it’s impossible to prove the resurrection scientifically. However, it’s not a matter of science, but of history, to be judged like all historical events — on the evidence of witnesses. In this case, all the witnesses speak with one voice: three days after Jesus had been crucified and certified dead, His tomb was found to be empty, and He was seen alive by numerous eyewitnesses, some of whom even claimed to have had a meal with Him. Writing less than 30 years after the event, Paul of Tarsus reported that he knew of more than 500 people who had met the risen Christ at the same time, and most of them were still living. (1 Corinthians 15: 6).

Surely the people who were there are more qualified to say what happened than any sceptics who are 2,000 years removed from the event! Christians believe that the strongest evidence that death is not the end is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Sceptics object that it’s impossible to prove the resurrection scientifically. However, it’s not a matter of science, but of history, to be judged like all historical events — on the evidence of witnesses. In this case, all the witnesses speak with one voice: three days after Jesus had been crucified and certified dead, His tomb was found to be empty, and He was seen alive by numerous eyewitnesses, some of whom even claimed to have had a meal with Him. Writing less than 30 years after the event, Paul of Tarsus reported that he knew of more than 500 people who had met the risen Christ at the same time, and most of them were still living. (1 Corinthians 15: 6).

Surely the people who were there are more qualified to say what happened than any sceptics who are 2,000 years removed from the event! Christians believe that the strongest evidence that death is not the end is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Sceptics object that it’s impossible to prove the resurrection scientifically. However, it’s not a matter of science, but of history, to be judged like all historical events — on the evidence of witnesses. In this case, all the witnesses speak with one voice: three days after Jesus had been crucified and certified dead, His tomb was found to be empty, and He was seen alive by numerous eyewitnesses, some of whom even claimed to have had a meal with Him. Writing less than 30 years after the event, Paul of Tarsus reported that he knew of more than 500 people who had met the risen Christ at the same time, and most of them were still living. (1 Corinthians 15: 6).